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Examiner: Thomas M. McEvoy
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Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A lancing device comprising: a first moving member holding a lancing member moved from a standby position to a puncturing position in a puncturing direction [[,]] for puncturing a target portion by the lancing member; a second moving member connected to the first moving member [[,]] for controlling the movement of the first moving member upon the movement of the second moving member; a housing for accommodating the first and the second moving members [[,]] while allowing the movement of the moving members; a movement converting mechanism for converting retreating movement of the second moving member away from the puncturing position into advancing movement of the lancing member to the puncturing position; and an impact absorbing means that comes into stopping contact with the second moving member in the retreating movement for absorbing impact that is caused when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.
2. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 1, wherein the impact absorbing means includes an elastic member for absorbing the impact by elastic deformation.
3. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 2, wherein the elastic member is fixed to the housing.
4. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 3, wherein the housing is provided with a projection for fixing the elastic member, the elastic member being a ring fitting around the projection.
5. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 4, wherein the elastic member is made of rubber or foam.

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6. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 2, wherein the elastic member is a coil spring intervening between the housing and the first or the second moving member, when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.

7. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 2, wherein the second moving member comprises an operating portion including a portion protruding out of an opening of the housing,

the elastic member being provided at one of the opening and the operating portion.

8. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 2, wherein the elastic member is a plate spring provided at a portion at which the housing comes into contact with at least one of the first and the second moving members, when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.

9. (Currently amended) The lancing device according to claim 2, further comprising wherein the movement converting mechanism comprises a link connecting the first and the second moving members for moving the first moving member members upon [[the]] movement of the second moving member,

wherein at least one of the first and the second moving members is formed with a groove for allowing movement of a shaft of the link.

10. (Original) The lancing device according to claim 9, wherein the elastic member is provided at an end of the groove.

11. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 9, wherein the elastic member is provided at the shaft.

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12. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 1, wherein the impact absorbing means absorbs the energy of the movement of the first and the second moving members utilizing friction resistance.

13. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 12, wherein the impact absorbing means includes an inclined or curved surface provided at a portion at which the housing comes into contact with at least one of the first and the second moving members, when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.

14. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 13, wherein the impact absorbing means includes a lib for contact with the inclined or curved surface, when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.

15. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 14, wherein the lib is provided at one or both of the first and the second moving members, the inclined or curved surface being provided at the housing.

16. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 15, wherein the second moving member comprises an operating portion including a portion protruding out of an opening of the housing,
the lib being provided at the operating portion.

17. (Withdrawn – currently amended) The lancing device according to claim 12, further comprising wherein the movement converting mechanism comprises a link connecting the first and the second moving members for moving the first moving members upon the movement of the second moving member,
wherein at least one of the first and the second moving members is formed with a groove for allowing movement of a shaft of the link,
wherein the impact absorbing means is provided by tapering the end of the groove to form a portion narrower than the shaft in diameter, the shaft being brought into

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contact with the tapered portion to absorb the energy of the movement of the first and the second moving members.

18. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 1, wherein the impact absorbing means includes an elastic member for absorbing impact by elastic deformation and also includes a frictional portion for absorbing the energy of the movement of the first and the second moving members utilizing friction resistance.

19. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 18, wherein the frictional portion includes an inclined or curved surface provided at a portion at which the housing comes into contact with at least one of the first and the second moving members, when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.

20. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 19, wherein the elastic member is a plate spring for contact the inclined or curved surface, when the first and the second moving members come to stop on puncture operation.

21. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 20, wherein the plate spring is movable in a direction across the puncturing direction.

22. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 21, wherein the plate spring includes a projection protruding in a direction across the puncturing direction for contact with the inclined or curved surface.

23. (Withdrawn) The lancing device according to claim 20, wherein the inclined or curved surface is provided at the housing,
the plate spring being provided at the second moving member.

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24. (Currently amended) The lancing device according to claim 1, wherein ~~advancee~~ or reciprocal movement of the second moving member is transformed into reciprocal movement of the first moving member.
25. (Currently amended) The lancing device according to claim 1[[24]], wherein the movement converting mechanism comprises a fixed pin fixed to the housing, a first link extending from the fixed pin, a first movable pin connected to the first link, a second link extending from the first movable pin, a second movable pin connected to the second link, a first groove formed in the second moving member and having an inclined portion for movably receiving the first movable pin, and a second groove formed in the first moving member for movably receiving the second movable pin when the second moving member retreats in a direction opposite to the puncturing direction, the first moving member reciprocates in the puncturing direction and in the direction opposite to the puncturing direction.
26. (Canceled)